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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial report of States Parties due in 1993

Addendum

CROATIA

[8 November 1994]

Annex: Report on violations of the rights of the child during the war

GE.94-70318 (E)

ANNEX

REPORT ON VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS

OF THE CHILD DURING THE WAR

PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE RIGHTS

OF THE CHILD OF THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA;

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF WAR

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CROATIAN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Introduction

The General Declaration on Human Rights was adopted as the Resolution 217 A (III) by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. Its Article 25, Item 2, reads that "mothers and children have the right to special care and assistance".

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was adopted by the United Nations Session on December 16, 1966, and was made operative on March 23, 1976 (Resolution 2. 200 A /XX/). Its Article 6, Item 1, determines that all human beings have the natural right to live, which should be protected by laws, and which they are not to be deprived of.

Article 23 of the same Law states that "a family is a natural and basic social unit enjoying the right of being protected by society and a state", whereas Article 24, Item 1 of the Pact reads that "every child, regardless of race, colour, gender, language, religion, national or social origin, possession or parentage is entitled to such protective measures provided by his family, society and state, as required by his condition of a minor".

The Republic of Croatia, as a legal successor of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child to its legal system by the Notification Act of December 8, 1991.

Article 38, Items 1 and 4 of this Convention reads that "contracting states commit themselves to respecting and providing respect for the rules of the International Humanitarian Law referring to children, and which they are subject to in armed conflicts. They pledge themselves to take on feasible measures to provide protection and care for war-stroke children".

Despite of the fact that the United Nations acts have been adopted by the former Yugoslavia, Serbia and its Army, as aggressors in the imposed war on Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, have violated all regulations

stated in the above mentioned documents, especially The Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the war in Croatia civilians and children have been victims of genocide. Thus, the provision of Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been clearly violated.

In this introductory section we will list only a few violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In this war, children have been, and still are, subject to various forms of sufferings, which all result in severe short and long-term consequences, both physical and mental.

The provision of Article 6 of the Convention, stating that "every child be conceded its natural right to live, namely that their existence and development be ensured", has been primarily violated.

Children have been wounded or have lost their lives as a result of either direct mortar or bomb attacks, air attacks, or by the remaining or harmlessly looking explosives dropped with the only intention to kill. Many children have been missing, but due to the fact that a part of the Croatian territory is under occupation, their exact figures are still unknown.

Although the war-stroke areas have taken the heaviest consequences among children, they have been seen suffering in almost all parts of Croatia. This is a consequence of mass destructions of civil structures, especially schools, by heavy long-range artillery shellings and air-raids resulting in high civilian casualties. However, throughout the Republic of Croatia children are still victims of remaining military items.

The children of all ages have been wounded or killed in the war. However, the age group with the highest risk are children from 11 to 14 and from 15 to 17 years of age. Over a half of the young victims were children of the above-stated age. The youngest casualty was 4-month old baby.

Among wounded children, there are 86 permanently disabled, as a result of amputated limbs, wounds inflicted by CNS, nerve lesions, eye injuries etc. Consequently, these children rely on other people's assistance.

The provision of Article 5 of the Convention has also been violated. It reads that "contracting parties will comply with responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or members of extended family and community in cases where children have lost their immediate family, which is the only

genuine nucleus, and a foundation for a later social life". Many children have lost either one or both parents, grandparents and other relatives. Thus they have been deprived of a support, love and security.

Since the beginning of the war over tens of thousands of children have been forced to exile either within the Republic of Croatia or abroad. Due to having had one or both parents captured or forced to exile, many family members have remained separated to this day. Some do not yet know where their parents or children are. This is a direct violation of Article 9 of the Convention, which states that "contracting parties will ensure that children are not separated from their parents against their will, unless competent authorities under court surveillance have decided (according to the applicable rights and procedure), that separation is necessary for children's own benefit".

The imposed exile has deprived children of their primary environment: their home, backyard, street, school, kindergarten, friends and neighbours. They have been resettled to new and foreign environments. This has changed their lives and forced them to face uncertainty. This is another example of the violation of the Convention. Article 16 reads that "a child will not be subject to arbitrary and illegal interference into his/her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor will he/she sustain unlawful deformation of his/her character and reputation".

Some children, feeling disoriented, have found it difficult to adopt to a new environment and, consequently, turned delinquent. This probably would not have happened if they had stayed in their primary environment.

Furthermore, children's natural environment, numerous daycare centres, schools, hospitals and other structures designed for upbringing and educating children have been destroyed during the war. As a consequence, many children from war - stroke areas have been unable to attend classes at school, or to receive proper health and social care. This serves as an additional evidence of the violation of the provisions of Articles 24, 26 and 28. Namely, they specify that "contracting parties are to claim the right of a child to keep healthy and, in case of sickness, provide for health and convalescence institutions". The same Articles further determine the responsibility of contracting states to guarantee every child the right to social security and education.

Five Centres for Rehabilitation of Handicapped Children have been destroyed. At the beginning of war children in those centres were exposed to armed enemy attacks for a long period of time. However, due to a large number of refugees, they have later been inadequately accommodated.

Thus, the provision of Article 23 of the Convention has also been violated. It states that "contracting parties acknowledge the right of mentally or physically handicapped children to enjoy a full and comfortable life under such conditions which ensure their dignity, promote relying on their own abilities and facilitate their active participation within a community".

According to some estimates, around 1 million children have been exposed to war conditions, out of which 20 000 have directly faced horrors of war, shellings, death and mutilation of their parents and relatives. They have spent months in shelters surrounded by enemy forces. This chain of events has led to traumatic experiences which have left permanent emotional fears on some children. The provision of Article 19 of the Convention has thus been violated. The provision declares that "contracting parties will take all necessary legal, administrative and social measures in protecting children from all forms of physical or mental violence or maltreatment".

This report will present data on the following: children who have been killed, missing and wounded; children with psycho physical impairments; children whose parents have been killed during the war; the destroyed and damaged educational and health institutions; the destroyed and damaged institutions for social care; the exiled children and the exiled juvenile delinquents.

All data listed here has been gathered from the free territory of Croatia and is neatly registered and documented in the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. Since more information is still being gathered, the below listed data are not final.

However, it has to be emphasized that the data on the violation of children's rights on 25 % of the complete Croatian territory is not available, since it is still under Serbian occupation and UNPROFOR protection (so called UNPA zones). Unfortunately, the UNPROFOR civilian authorities do not have any evidence on the children's rights violation in these areas.

According to the UNICEF estimates, some 50 000 children live in these parts of Croatia, out of which 24 000 are pre - school children. Although we do not have accurate data, these children, who are Croatian citizens, are also deprived of their right to normal life, education, health care and a psycho physical development under normal circumstances. Namely, despite the fact that the UNPROFOR protectorate was established in 1992, the rights of children have been continually violated, resulting in a large-scale exile of children.

The data below has been gathered through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Interior, the Chief Medical Headquarters of the Ministry of Health, the Croatian Red Cross, the National Bureau of the Services for Tracing Missing Persons, the Office for the Refugees and the Exiled, and other non - governmental organizations.

Before the Government Commission for Gathering Data on the Violation of Rights of the Child was founded, the Institute for the Mothers' and Children Protection had registered information on children - victims of war, since the beginning of war in Croatia - summer of 1991. It is located in Zagreb, Klaićeva 16, and its goal is to observe all aspects of deterioration in health and social conditions of children in the time of war. The data taken from their register has been particularly valuable in supporting this report.

Finally, it should be stressed that different war periods, in relation to certain types of violations, were stated in a separate section. However, time of their beginning and end corresponds with the data gathered in the meantime.

Killed children

248 children aged 0 to 17 were killed in the period from May, 1991 to September, 1994. It should be pointed out that most of the children were killed in the first six months of the war in Croatia.

Table 1. KILLED CHILDREN

Year	Killed children	
	Number	Percent
1991	*110*	*44,4*
1992	*107*	*43,1*
1993	*31*	*12,5*
1994	-	-
TOTAL	**248**	**100**

According to the age, 38 (15.3%) children were killed at the age between 0 and 6 years, 41 (16.5%) at the age between 7 and 10, 66 (26.6%) at the age between 11 and 14, 82 (35.1%) at the age between 15 and 17. The ages of the remaining 16 (6.5%) killed children are still unknown.

Table 2. KILLED CHILDREN (age)

Age	Killed children	
	Number	Percent
0 - 6	*38*	*15,3*
7 - 10	*41*	*16,5*
11 - 14	*66*	*26,6*
15 - 17	*87*	*35,1*
Unknown	*16*	*6,5*
TOTAL	**248**	**100**

According to the gender of killed children, 72% are boys and 28% are girls.

Table 3. KILLED CHILDREN (sex)

Age	Sex		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
0 - 6	*27*	*11*	*38*
7 - 10	*28*	*13*	*41*
11 - 14	*53*	*13*	*66*
15 - 17	*58*	*29*	*87*
Unknown	*13*	*3*	*16*
TOTAL	**179**	**69**	**248**
Percent	**72**	**28**	**100**

According to the areas of the Republic of Croatia where the children were killed, most children got killed in the area of East Slavonia (48.1%), followed by the South Croatia (23.0%) and the Kordun area (7.0%). The

remaining children were killed in other occupied areas of the Republic of Croatia.

The data on the cause and the type of death-inflicting injuries point out to the conclusion that children fell victims to air raids, shelling, shooting and explosion or were shot to death. However, the type of death-inflicting injuries was not registered in 16.9% cases.

Table 4. CAUSE AND TYPE OF DEATH KILLED CHILDREN

Type of Injury	Number	Percent
Injuries by explosion	*116*	*46,8*
Shooting injuries	*79*	*31,9*
Bruises and fractures	*7*	*2,8*
Burns and fractures	*4*	*1,6*
Unknown	*42*	*16,9*
TOTAL	**248**	**100**

This data serves as evidence of the violation of the prevision of Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child guaranteeing the right to life to every child.

The data on killed children were gathered through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and all its health institutions, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, and the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The records have been filed at the Office for Victims of War.

Injured children

In the period between May, 1991. to September 29, 1994. 901 children in the age from 0 to 17 were wounded. As is the case with the killed children, the most children 512 (56.8%) were wounded in the first six months of the war. In 1992, 272 (30.2%) children were wounded; in 1993, 96 (10.7%), and during 1994. 2 (0.2%).

Table 1. INJURED CHILDREN

Year	Number	Percent
1991	*512*	*56,8*
1992	*272*	*30,2*
1993	*96*	*10,7*
1994	*2*	*0,2*
Unknown	*19*	*2,1*
TOTAL	**901**	**100**

At the age from 0-6 years 140 (15.5%) children were injured, 160 children (17.8%) at the age from 7 to 10, 265 (29.4%) children at he age from 11 to 14 and 243 (27%) children at the age from 15 to 17. The age was not dete mined for 17 (1.9%) children.

Table 2. INJURED CHILDREN (age)		
Age	Number	Percent
0 - 6	*140*	*15,5*
7 - 10	*160*	*17,8*
11 - 14	*265*	*29,4*
15 - 17	*319*	*35,4*
Unknown	*17*	*1,9*
TOTAL	901	100

76% boys and 24% girls were injured in the war.

As was the case with the children who were killed, most children - 45.1% were injured in the East Slavonia, 22.0% children in South Croatia, 7.0% in the Western Slavonia and the remaining children were injured in all other areas of the Republic of Croatia.

Table 3. INJURED CHILDREN (sex)			
Age	Sex		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
0 - 6	*90*	*50*	*140*
7 - 10	*112*	*48*	*160*
11 - 14	*207*	*58*	*265*
15 - 17	*261*	*58*	*319*
Unknown	*16*	*1*	*17*
TOTAL	686	215	901
Percent	76	24	100

The data on the cause and the type of injuries indicate that 469 children were wounded in an explosion, 226 were shot, 46 children sustained bruises and fractures, and 44 childreen were burnt and sustained other types of injuries. The children were injured during air raids, shelling attacks, shooting and explosions.

Table 4. CAUSE AND TYPE OF INJURY KILLED CHILDREN

Type of Injury	Number	Percent
Injuries by explosion	*469*	*52,0*
Shooting injuries	*226*	*25,1*
Bruises and fractures	*46*	*5,1*
Burns and fractures	*44*	*4,9*
Unknown	*116*	*12,9*
TOTAL	**901**	**100**

Among the injured children, 86 are permanently disabled. Limbs of the 12 were amputated, 13 suffered injuries on the central nervous system, 10 children had nerve lesions, whereas 5 children suffered from injuries to the ear, etc.

The above mentioned children were not given an immediate or adequate medical aid.

This state of matters points out to the violation of the right of a child to life, the right to adequate medical help and to the protection from all forms of physical and mental violence (Article 6., 19. and Item 24. of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The data have been gathered through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia, and all its medical institutions. The records are kept at the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Missing children

An unexpected occupation of parts of the Croatian territory resulted in a violent separation of family members in the period between May 1991 and April 1994.

The action of tracing missing children has been initiated according to the data of the Croatian Red Cross, the National Bureau for Missing Persons Tracing Service, and is still under way.

By October 18, 1993, the Croatian Red Cross registered 433 missing children, 410 children by November 8, 1993, 324 children by November 22, 1993, 320 children by January 3, 1994, while the last data gathered by April 11, 1994, shows that 308 children were registered as missing.

The data on age groups of the missing children referring to the figures of January 3, 1994 shows the following:

Sex groups data indicates that 147 girls and 173 boys were reported as missing. (Table 2)

212 (66%) members of families and 108 (34%) others reported that their relatives and friends are missing to the Croatian Red Cross, the National Bureau of the Missing Persons Tracing Service.

Table 1. MISSING CHILDREN

Age	Number
0 - 5	*127*
5 - 10	*83*
10 - 15	*86*
16 - 18	*24*

Table 2. MISSING CHILDREN

Sex	
Girls	*173*
Boys	*147*

Table 3. MISSING CHILDREN

Requests from	
Families	*212*
Others	*108*

Places with highest incidence of missing children are as follows: Vukovar (111), Vinkovci (22), Vrgin Most (20), Drniš (17), Beli Manastir (14), Slunj (11), Pakrac (9), Glina (6). The data on 19 missing children in relation to their place of disappearance is unknown.

Table 4. MISSING CHILDREN

Place	Number
Vukovar	*111*
Vinkovci	*22*
Vrginmost	*20*
Drniš	*17*
Beli Manastir	*14*
Slunj	*11*
Pakrac	*9*
Glina	*6*
Unknown	*19*

There is some indication that some children were taken to the Serbian camps and prisons together with one or both parents. However, they were not registered by the International Red Cross, so there is a suspicion that they might have been killed.

Thus Article 6 of the Con-vention on the Rights of the Child stating that every child has a right to life, existence and development was vio-lated. The data on miš-sing children were gat-hered by the Croatian Red Cross, the Natio-nal Bureau of the Mis-sing Persons Tracing Service, and the Office for Victims of War. The records have been filed in the Croatian Red Cross and the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

There were 52 missing children recorded in the latest drive of searching missing and detained persons launched in June 1994.

Children whose parents were killed in the war

During the agression against the Republic of Croatia, from May 1991 to December 31, 1993, when last data was gathered, 4273 children lost one parent, and 54 lost both of them. Ten children whose mothers were killed and they got injured in the same shooting incident, were also registered.

Table 1. CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS WERE KILLED IN WAR

Children	Number
Without one parent	*4273*
Without both parents	*54*

Also, 10 children are registered to be wounded at the same time as their mothers.

The right of children to their own families was violated in this way. Consequently, due to the loss of a parent, they suffered a severe mental anguish (Article 16 and 19 ofthe Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The data were gathered through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Defense and the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The records have been filed in the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Exiled children

A significant number of people and children of Croatia were forced to exile, in the period between October 8, 1991 and April 27, 1994 due to the aggression against the Republic of Croatia. Many people in the war zone, which includes 25% of the Croatian territory, were forced to leave their homes at the very onset of the aggression in 1991.

In the period of only two and a half months, from October 10, 1991 to December 24, 1991, 307 620 refugees were registered (around 8% of the total population of the Republic of Croatia), out of which 172,168 were children.

Upon the arrival of the UN Peace - Keeping Forces at the beginning of 1992, and the suspension of most violent hostilities, some of these people returned to their homes in the zones under surveillance of the Croatian authorities and protectorate of UNPROFOR (UNPA - zones West), so that 264,194 persons, out of which 147,949 children, were registered as missing on November 26, 1992.

According to the latest data of April 27, 1994, 239,921 refugees were registered in the Republic of Croatia, out of which 71,976 were children.

Table 1. EXILES FROM CROATIA		
Date	Exiles from Croatia	Children (estimate)
8. 10. 1991.	*129 167*	*72 333*
24. 12. 1991.	*307 620*	*172 268*
14. 2. 1992.	*331 134*	*185 435*
27. 3. 1992.	*325 806*	*182 451*
22. 4. 1992.	*247 278*	*138 476*
30. 6. 1992.	*274 614*	*153 784*
26. 8. 1992.	*267 500*	*149 800*
26. 11. 1992.	*264 194*	*147 949*
27. 1. 1993.	*245 343*	*88 323*
31. 3. 1993.	*245 324*	*88 317*
7. 7. 1993.	*241 559*	*86 961*
24. 1. 1993.	*241 639*	*72 491*
16. 3. 1994.	*241 014*	*72 304*
27. 4. 1994.	**239 921**	**71 976**

After the last official evidence of exiles of July 15, 1994, registered were 190,816 exiles, of which 44,915 were children. Age structure of exiled children is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. EXILED CHILDREN	
Age	Number
0 - 1	*2 112*
1 - 3	*4 609*
3 - 6	*7 716*
6 - 14	*21 717*
14 - 18	*10 873*
UKUPNO	**44 915**

These children were deprived of their right to home, family life, education and natural environment.

Around 25% children have been poorly accommodated in refugee centers, where several generations of a family, or even more families, live together in one room. Sanitary conditions are also inappropriate in relation to such limited space and a high number of members.

Despite the presence of UNPROFOR on parts of the Croatian territory under occupation of local Serbian authorities, ethnic cleansing was still under way during 1992 and 1993.

There were serious mistreatments of the families (and children) of non - Serbian nationality, which, finally, resulted in 25,000 people and children being expelled from their homes since May 1992 when UNPROFOR officially took over the protectorate of sectors North - South and East.

It should be pointed out that the data on children refugees were being gathered with great difficulties due to the state of war in Croatia and the fact that children changed their residence very often looking for better living conditions. Therefore, we cannot always present completely correct figures. However, according to the data provided by UNICEF and UNHCR, there were 23,076 children - refugees in the Republic of Croatia on April 12, 1994.

Children evacuated to foreign countries

The total of 6,725 children were evacuated to foreign countries in the period between September 1991 and April 12, 1994. There were 4,774 evacuees aged from 6 to 14, and 1,951 aged from 14 to 18.

The evacuated children were from the following counties: Karlovac, Sisak - Moslavina, Osijek - Baranja, Požega - Slavonija, Brod - Posavina, Vukovar - Srijem, Virovitica - Podravina and Lika - Senj.

The highest number of children - evacuees (5,262) were from the Osijek - Baranja county. They were sent to Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary. Then follows the Požega - Slavonija county whose children (793) were evacuated to Slovakia, the children (449) from the Vukovar - Srijem county were evacuated to Hungary. Finally, the children (166) from the Virovitica - Podravina county were evacuated to Hungary, too.

All the above mentioned children were evacuated through the Ministry of Culture and Education of Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia, local Offices for Social Activities, Crisis Headquarters and the Office for Refugees of the Republic of Croatia.

Thus, the previsions of Articles 6, 8, 9, 16, 19, 26 and 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were violated.

The data were gathered through the Office for the Exiled and Refugees of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

The records have been filed in the Office for the Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Juvenile delinquency

Conditions and trends of juvenile delinquency in 1992 and 1993

The data of the District Attorney of the Republic of Croatia on the condition and trends of juvenile delinquency in 1992 inform of 7,158 juvenile delinquents in Croatia in the same year as a result of war. This number increased by 53,4% or 2,491 persons compared to 1991.

A significant increase was recorded in Zagreb (104%), Zadar (100%), Pula (75.5%), Šibenik (69.2%) and Požega (60.7%).

In 1993 District Attorney Offices brought criminal charges against 7,678 minors, which is 7.3% more than in 1992.

Juvenile delinquency increased by 41.9% compared to the previous year in the area of the District Attorney Offices in Osijek, by 25.2% in Karlovac and Sisak, by 12.5% in Zadar, by 12.1% in Rijeka and by 10.6% in Split.

Although this average increase for the Republic of Croatia in terms of percentage (7.3%) may not appear alarming, the trend is nonetheless disturbing since 1991 saw the increase of 53%, which indicates the continuing growth in juvenile delinquency.

In 1992 the number of delinquents with a previous criminal record also increased. The total number of all delinquents with criminal record who had been two or more times charged with criminal offense, or had been given sanctions, was 33.9%. In 1993 the number of this type of delinquents was 28%.

The main reason of such high incidence of relapse in delinquency lies partly in the fact that almost all homes of correction of minimum, medium and maximum security had closed. Due to the occupation of a part of the

territory of the Republic of Croatia (Glina) where there was a maximum security home of correction, it was impossible to act in reforming delinquents in the period between June 26, 1991 to April 20, 1993.

Furthermore, due to the lack of space and a high number of refugees from the occupied territories, juvenile delinquents had to be moved from Houses of correction with minimum security and refugees moved in instead. Consequently, the Reform Center in Zagreb accommodated 54 refugees (the delinquent occupancy of 67), the Reform Center in Karlovac 50 (the delinquent occupancy of 52), the Reform Center in Osijek accommodated 79 refugees (the delinquent occupancy of 75), the Reform Center in Split accommodated 20 refugees and 70 handicapped from Vrlika (the delinquent occupancy of 65) and the Reform Center in Zadar accommodated 42 refugees (the delinquent occupancy of 66).

Similar circumstances hindered reforming measures of a tighter surveillance and care, since the social welfare service, which otherwise in charge of these matters, had to engage in accommodating refugees.

Refugees as juvenile delinquents

In the period between January 1, 1991 and August 30, 1993 there were 170 refugees - persons under age among juvenile delinquents, who were forced to change residence and committed their first criminal offense in the new environment.

There were 28 such offenders from Vukovar, 36 from Osijek, 26 from Dubrovnik, 15 from Vinkovci, 8 from Karlovac, while the rest of offenders had come from the present - day occupied territory or war zones of the Republic of Croatia.

Out of the total number of refugee offenders, 79 of them were accommodated in refugee shelters, 78 of them were privately accommodated, whereas the type of accommodation of 17 offenders could not be determined.

Furthermore, out of the total number of all refugee offenders, 4 of them committed a criminal offense at the age of 10, 28 of them committed a criminal offense at the age between 10 to 14, 123 committed criminal offense at the age between 14 to 18, whereas the exact age of 15 offenders was not determined.

Out of 170 offenders, 161 were male and 9 female.

As the integrity of families at the time of committing an offense is concerned, 64 offenders came from integral families, 83 from broken families, whereas this information was not available for 23 offenders.

It was determined that out of 83 offenders coming from incomplete families, four of them had lost one of the parents in the war, 17 of them had one parent who was a soldier in the war, and 18 were separated from their parents who had remained in their place of residence in war - stroke areas. Moreover, out of 36 offenders had parents who had been either divorced or separated before the war, whereas parents of 8 offenders were, for unknown reasons, shortly absent at the time of the criminal offense.

District Attorney's offices and courts applied the Basic Criminal Law of the Republic of Croatia and Criminal Law of the Republic of Croatia in instigating criminal proceedings against refugee offenders. These Laws contain material and legal regulations pertaining to minors. Besides, the Criminal Procedure Law which contains legal procedure regulations pertaining to minors was also applied. However, it should be emphasized that legal proceedings were instigated only by way of an exception and in case of felony, while other refugee offenders were protected by the Marriage and Family Law.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare gathered social case histories of these offenders through Centers for social work.

The data for this part of the report was gathered through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia and the District Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia.

The records have been filed at the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Table 1. JUVENILE CRIMINALITY						
District's Attorney	1991.	1992.	+ / - %	1992.	1993.	+ / - %
Bjelovar	399	527	32,1	527	549	4,2
Dubrovnik	101	137	35,6	137	147	7,3
Gospić	15	10	- 33,3	10	32	220
Karlovac	118	111	- 6	111	139	25,2
Osijek	615	798	29,7	798	1132	41,9
Pula	258	440	75,5	440	429	- 2,5
Rijeka	518	708	36,7	708	794	12,1
Sisak	115	111	- 3, 5	111	139	25,2
Požega	140	225	60,7	225	224	- 0,4
Split	702	897	27,8	897	802	- 10,6
Šibenik	120	203	69,2	203	205	1
Varaždin	314	443	41	443	475	7,2
Zadar	155	311	100	311	350	12,5
Zagreb	1097	2237	104	2237	2261	1,1
TOTAL	**4667**	**7158**	**53,4**	**7158**	**7678**	**7,3**

Destroyed and damaged institutions for children

Health institutions destroyed or damaged during the war in the Republic of Croatia

During the war in the Republic of Croatia 15 hospitals were destroyed: Dvor, Glina, Gospić, Kostajnica, Lipik, Nova Gradiška, Novska, Osijek, Otočac, Pakrac, Petrinja, Slunj, Topusko, Vinkovci i Vukovar).

Furthermore, 14 health institutions were damaged: Bjelovar, Daruvar, Dubrovnik, Karlovac, Ogulin, Podravska Slatina, Sisak, Slavonski Brod, Požega, Šibenik, Valpovo, Varaždin, Zadar and Županja (according to the data of authorized Ministries of the Republic of Croatia).

Table 1. HEALTH INSTITUTIONS	
Destroyed	*15*
Demaged	*14*

The above listed data clearly imply the violation of the provision of the Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which stipulate the children's right to enjoying the highest possible level of health protection.

The data was gathered through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia and all its Health Units. The records have been filled at the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Social welfare institutions destroyed or damaged during the war in the Republic of Croatia

During the war in the Republic of Croatia 8 Children's Homes were destroyed and damaged: Dubrovnik, Karlovac, Lipik, Petrinja, Osijek, Sisak, Slavonski Brod, Vinkovci; 3 Youth Reformatory Homes: Karlovac, Osijek, Zadar, and 5 Homes for Handicapped Children's Rehabilitation: Daruvar, Karlovac, Šibenik, Vrlika, Zadar.

Table 2. SOCIALE WELFARE INSTITUTIONS	
Children's Homes	*8*
Youth Reformatory Homes	*3*
Homes for Handicaped Children's Rehabilitation	*5*

The above listed damaged and destroyed social welfare institutions point out to the violation of the prevision of the Article 26 of the Convention which postulates the guaranteed social security of all children.

The data was gathered through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia.

The records haye been filed at the Office for Victims of War of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Educational institutions destroyed or damaged during the war in the Republic of Croatia

During the aggression against the Republic of Croatia 128 kindergartens, 335 elementary schools, and 65 high schools and dormitories were destroyed or damaged in the period between July 1991 and August 1993.

Table 3. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	
Kindergartens	*128*
Elementary Schools	*335*
High Schools and Dormitories	*65*

These institutions were attended or resided by 14,603 pre-school children (15% of all kindergarten children), 81,193 school children at the age from 7 to 14 (16% of all elementary school children), and 57,386 high school students at the age from 15 to 18 (27% of high school students and dormitory residents).

Psychological problems of children in the war in Croatia

Children who grow up in war zones are exposed to an extremely high risk of mental disorders. Simultaneously they face two highly demanding processes: the process of growing up and the process of confronting numerous war-inflicted losses and traumas. The children in their growing up period are still unable to apply various compensatory mechanisms aimed at helping in dealing with traumatic experiences. At the same time, they have to confront the previously unknown situations: the changing relations within the family and neighbors; their friends have become their enemies, and finally, their home does not belong to them anymore.

The loss of home is an extremely frustrating factor for a child, because it is of a vital importance in creating self identity. Children's sketches, short stories, diaries etc. reveal how badly children take the loss of home. Furthermore, its loss is connected to numerous other losses: the change in the way of living, separation from friends and other important people in their lives, the loss of pets and other things essential for a normal growing up process.

Living with stress - affected parents is another problem. A parent who finds it difficult to live up to new living conditions is not only unable to give an appropriate support to a child, but often is either aggressive or depressed and thus inflicts an additional stress on a child.

The separation of family members is a further emotional loss, because it changes the structure of a family. It has been observed that children aged from 12 to 14 years assume the responsibility for a whole family (usually they assume the role of the father). The children of missing persons are in an extremely difficult situation, because there is a constant mourning in such a family.

The accumulation of a number of lasting stressful situations impairs a child's ability of adopting to a new environment. Numerous researches, based on different methodologies, point out to the average psychological profile of such children.

The most extensive research on psychological impact of war on children was done within the scope of the UNICEF's project "The Psychological and educational assistance to war - affected students".

5000 elementary school children throughout Croatia were included in this research. The result showed out that, of 25 possible traumatic war events, there was an average of 7 experienced by each child. The most common ones were the exile and the separation of family members, indirect personal threats (air raids, shooting, extended stay in shelters), threats to family members, the presence in the act of killing and injuring, and, finally, direct personal threats. The study of stress experience showed that, in relation to stress reactions expressed, 35 % of the exiled children and 18.5 % of children living in crisis areas, but who had not been exiled, are groups with a high risk of mental disorders (Špoljarić, Stuvland, Kutlerovac - 1993.).

The program aimed at pre-school children entitled "The Psycho educational Assistance to the Exiled and Refugee Children of Pre-school Age, Their Parents and Kindergarten Teachers" covered 1,874 exiled and refugee children at the ages from 3 to 6. Traumatic experiences ranged from the loss of property in 84 % cases, direct experiencing of war trauma in 54 % cases, traumatic experiences in the exile in 23 % cases, the death of a close person in 18 % cases, the imprisonment of a close person in 16 % cases, starvation in 14 % cases, to injuries in 13 % cases. Around 40 % of the examined sample live in refugee shelters and hotels, and the remaining 60 % are accommodated elsewhere.

The longitudinal cross-section of 125 school children in a refugee camp, according to the data supplied by their mothers, showed that 28 % of them had lost their appetite, 20 % suffered from sleeping disturbances, 13.6 % had nightmares, 20 % had become obstinate, 16 % aggressive and 9 % hyper-active.

A research done a year later indicated that in as many as 11.9 % children previous five or more stress signs were still present. Therefore, they still belong to a high risk group.

The analysis of children accommodated communally compared to those living in fostered families showed that the process of adjustment in a

communal accommodation is far slower and resulted in behavior problems and failing grades.

The research on depression showed that as many as 21.6 % of refugee children had, on the depression scale, a score higher than a bordering value. The analysis of morbidity rate in children in psychiatric clinics and wards showed that in the first year the number of children seeking expert help with various psychological disorders within the scope of PTSD was twice as high. In children's psychiatric ward the number of children with psychotic reactions and aberrations in behavior compared to the prewar period also doubled.

Although the studies were methodologically differently constructed, they all indicate a high level of risks of mental disorders in children in Croatia, due to being exposed to war conditions. A special emphasis should be placed on traumatized children who belong to a high risk group. They are the children of the killed, the children of one missing parent, the injured children and the permanently disabled children living in the exile. Cumulatively, the exiled children have experienced a higher number of traumatic situations.

So far we haven't gathered data on longitudinal trends of the influence of war to mental state, except for individual groups of children. Besides, the program of the analysis of mental state in children from high risk groups is being prepared.

The presence of various problems has been determined by a check list of behavior patterns designed after a DSM II. Emotional problems are predominantly represented by mood changes with dominant irritation spells and a lowered control ability, followed by fear of separation, depression, crying outbursts, the feeling of guilt and emotional dullness.

Social problems range from the need for attracting attention, aggressiveness to negativism, hyperactivity, and a lack of self-reliance. From the field of thinking, perception and memory, strong visualizations are placed highest, followed by distracted attention, concentration, cognitive problems and confusion. Psycho physical problems range from disturbances in sleeping, eating, speech and various types of pains, etc.

Comparative analyses of children of different cultural backgrounds and traumatic experiences by means of test (PTSD) indicate conditions of a high stress level. However, there is a difference in comparing exiled children with refugee children, as well as with domiciled population.

The sample of 100 children showed a high risk incidence in all examined children. However, there is a difference in behavior related to their background and origin.

Both exiled children and refugee children showed positive results to PTSD, while a different monosymptomatic findings (anxiety, depression, aggression etc.) were predominant in domiciled children with traumatic experiences.

Conclusion

Based on all documented data, which are still not complete and final, it can be concluded that children experienced the following tragedies during the war in the Republic of Croatia in the period between May, 1991. and April, 1994.:

248 were killed

52 are missing

901 were wounded (86 permanently disabled)

4,273 lost one parent

54 lost both parents

936 children whose parents are missing or prisoned

528 educational institutions were destroyed or damaged (128 kindergartens, 335 elementary schools and 65 high schools and dormitories)

16 institutions of social welfare were destroyed or damaged (8 children's homes, 3 youth reform homes and 5 homes for rehabilitation of the handicapped children)

29 children's health institutions were destroyed or damaged (15 hospitals and 14 other health institutions)

There were 172,268 children who were registered as exiled in the two and a half months period between October 10, 1991 and December 24, 1991.

Thanks to suspension of war operations some children returned to their homes in the meantime. As a consequence, there were 71,976 exiled children registered on April 27, 1994. However, not all children have still been registered, so that, according to the data provided by UNICEF and UNHCR, there were 73,076 exiled children in the Republic of Croatia on April 12, 1994. Out of the total number of all exiled children, 6,725 children were evacuated to foreign countries.

After the last official evidence of exiles of July 15, 1994, registered were 190,816 exiles, of which 44,915 were children.

These figures clearly suggest that children were affected, especially victims of the aggression against Croatia. Consequently, with the respect of the age of the population involved, further problem can be expected resulting from the impact of war on the growth and development of children.

The Commission, working on gathering and analyzing these data, wishes to inform all world - wide organizations and individuals, members of international community, and especially the Committee for Observing the Application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child about the flagrant violation of basic children's rights in Europe at the end of the 20th century. It also expects condemnation of such acts and international intervention in offering help to children.